

S/N 10/675,920

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Christopher P. Knapp et al.

Examiner: Terri L Smith

Serial No.: 10/675,920

Group Art Unit: 3762

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Docket No.: 279.640US1

Title: DRUG-ELUTING ELECTRODE

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

This responds to the Office Action dated January 27, 2006. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute the paragraph below for the paragraph beginning on Page 3, line 25 and continuing to Page 4.

Figure 3 shows a helix 30 coupled to lead 11, in accordance with one embodiment. Helix 30 includes a body 32 having a coating 34 covering at least a portion of the helix surface. Coating 34 is similar to coating 28 described above, and the above discussion is incorporated herein. Helix 30 provides a technique for securing an electrode assembly to the heart. In one embodiment helix 30 can be coupled to conductor 13 (Figure 1) and can be formed of an electrically conductive material offering low electrical resistance and is also resistant to corrosion by body fluids. A biocompatible metal, such as titanium, platinum, or platinum-iridium alloy are examples of suitable materials. Alternatively, the helix ~~[[100]]~~ 30 can be electrically inactive or insulated. In one embodiment, helix 30 can be constructed of a rigid, corrosion resistant, non-electrically-conductive material (e.g., a ceramic). For example, helix 30 can extend through a mesh electrode 36 at the distal end of lead 11. In some embodiments, helix 30 can be retractable, as known in the art.